

GRENFELL FIRE TWO YEARS ON >>PAGES 3 and 10&11

NO JUSTICE—NO PEACE

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AS THE TORIES CRACK UP...



BLOW THEM AWAY

by NICK CLARK

YOU KNOW when it's time to call it a night.

It's 5am, the drink's all gone and you feel like crap. But you can't get rid of the posh bloke talking nonsense who wants you to stick around and try to keep it going.

That's the Tory Party.

Theresa May—apparently still prime minister as Socialist Worker went to press—would have liked to end her leadership on a high.

But the contest to succeed her as leader has become a farce.

Smoke

Michael Gove regretted taking cocaine. He probably then regretted telling the author of his biography, as the admission nearly caused his leadership bid to go up in smoke.

Boris Johnson can't remember what he took. And Jeremy Hunt kept his nose clean with a "cannabis Lassi".

Behind all that, candidates promise tax cuts for the rich, pay cuts for the rest of us.

That's a bitter pill to swallow, and it's no good keeping our powder dry.

We need strikes and demonstrations to make this government wrecked—followed by a crashing comedown.

TRADE UNIONS

Camden workers celebrate victory over outsourcer

STRIKES BY determined traffic wardens in Camden, north London, have scored a huge victory against outsourcing giant NSL.

Around 130 Unison union members struck for 33 days for a pay rise and changes to safety procedures.

We need many more strikes like this.

>>Page 7

SUDAN



Sudan—general strike follows massacre

WORKERS IN Sudan have shown their power to bring society to a halt in the battle against the ruthless military regime.

A general strike has brought many towns and cities to a standstill.

It comes after at least 110 people were killed by the military last week.

>>Pages 14&15 and 20

CLIMATE

'We should fight to save the planet,' say trade unionists

YOUNG campaigners have appealed to workers to strike over climate change in September.

Lots of workers are worried about climate change—and many union activists are now thinking seriously about what kind of action is possible.

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PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'We will be annihilated'

Tory leadership wannabe **Jeremy Hunt's** optimistic prediction of the next election

'A serious moment calls for a serious leader'

Tory leadership wannabe **Jeremy Hunt** apparently meant himself

'I am not running to fail'

Tory leadership wannabe **Matt Hancock** announces his bid with characteristic style

'The big crowds, which the Corrupt Media hates to show, were those that gathered in support'

US president **Donald Trump**, on the protests around his state visit to Britain

'Dear The Police—I know it was a nasty crash in Hammersmith last night but how can it take this long to re-open a road?'

Jeremy Clarkson complained about a road closure caused by a fatal car crash



Cops investigated over their non-expert expert witnesses

TWO POLICE officers face disciplinary action after the collapse of a fraud trial amid claims that expert witnesses, one of whom was not of "suitable calibre", were coached.

The City of London detectives investigated an alleged £3.5m cold-calling scam.

In it eight men were accused of duping 72 people into making bad investments in carbon credits and diamonds.

As Troublemaker reported, **Andrew Ager** gave evidence as an expert witness.

But the case was thrown out after he admitted under cross-examination that he had never read a book on carbon credits.

Now two unnamed police officers will face an internal investigation. It follows the disclosure of emails that



ANDREW AGER

appear to show one detective constable, **Stewart Walker**, telling Ager what to write in a statement.

Judge **Lorraine-Smith** said in his closing comments that Walker told Ager "exactly what he wanted and even suggested the wording".

Documents also suggest that another witness, diamond expert **Peter Buckie**, was also tutored.

He was apparently coached on what to write in a report about the value of rare pink and yellow gems that were allegedly sold to investors

at inflated prices.

In emails sent in 2015 and 2016, Walker appears to ask Buckie to delete parts of his statement and add in a paragraph he wrote himself.

"Can you replace all the text with the following, or something similar," he said.

He also asked Buckie to "give further comment" on the fact that an element of the case was "something you have NEVER seen before, or have only seen in fraudulent circumstances".

A second officer, Detective Constable **Abdun Noor**, is alleged to have signed off a report with sections that were copied by Ager from an earlier trial, the judge said.

The CPS is reviewing a raft of prosecutions and cases—and number of convicted people are heading to the appeal courts.

● **GREEDY PEERS** could get a pay rise after moaning their tax-free £305 daily allowance is not enough. Parliamentary authorities are considering the increase to cover accommodation for lords living outside London. One peer called for an extra £175 a day—the same amount MPs can claim for hotels. If granted, it would see lords' allowances rocket by 60 percent. Lords could rake in £70,000 a year for just 150 days work.



Queueing for expenses

● **NOTHING IS** quite so forgettable as a former party leader even when they are still prime minister.

When **Theresa May** stepped down on last week she was the fifth item on the BBC news website. On Twitter there was more trending excitement about **National Fish and Chip Day**.

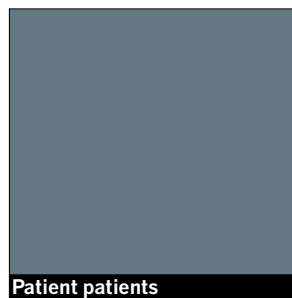
250,000 more wait longer for NHS help

OVER A quarter of a million more patients are now waiting for longer than four and a half months for specialist NHS treatment.

That is almost double the 277,000 who had to wait beyond 18 weeks eight years ago.

New figures show that 263,000 extra patients are being left untreated as the government misses more than 90 percent of its own targets.

They include nearly 12,000 more patients languishing on waiting lists before being seen by consultants for Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and epilepsy—a 205 percent rise.



Patient patients

Over-18 week waits in gynaecology cases have gone up from 14,400 to 31,700 and heart problems 9,300 to 20,500—rises of 120 percent.

The total number of patients on NHS waiting lists increased by 1.7 million to 4.1 million between 2011 and now.

Ordinary skint racist banks at Queen's bank

HE IS the man of the people. But **Nigel Farage** banks with **Coutts**, the 327 year old private bank whose customers include the queen.

He has his mortgage there, according to the title deeds to his home in **Westerham, Kent**.

The bank has strict lending criteria that would enable only the wealthiest of clients to afford one of its mortgage products.

Those wishing to take out a mortgage with **Coutts** must either have an annual income of at least £500,000, or a combination of savings, investments and

loans with it, which can include the mortgage, of at least £1 million.

Companies House records show a company called **Thorn in the Side**, of which **Farage** is the sole director, had assets of £548,573 for the year to May 2018.

Nigel Farage

Rory Stewart

Posh Tory nonsense one

RORY STEWART may only have two MPs supporting him for Tory leader, but his backstory is truly inspiring.

The everyday Etonian opium taker started out as a mere humble tutor for royal princes. Shame that by time you read this he will be off the leadership ballot paper.

Rees-Mogg

Posh Tory nonsense two

JACOB REES-MOGG may be licking his wounds (or getting a servant to do it for him) after his book *The Victorians* sold only 734 copies in its first week after a barrage of scathing reviews.

A third of sales were made in London, which does prove Mogg right that the metropolitan elite is out of touch with the nation. In the whole of the southwest, where his constituency lies, only 22 copies were sold.

All rise for high court judges

A **WELL** deserved pay rise is on the way for struggling high court judges. A 16 percent pay rise will see hard working senior judges lift their pay to more than £215,000.

The Ministry of Justice said that high court and circuit court judges would receive a temporary recruitment and retention allowance.

A 25 percent allowance for the High Court bench replaces an 11 percent increase made in 2017, resulting in a total rise of 16 percent—or more than £26,400.

That of course comes on top of a 2 percent rise last October, for other public sector workers.

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Echoes of Grenfell Tower horror in east London fire

A BLAZE that ripped through a block flats in east London on Sunday had terrible echoes of the Grenfell Tower fire.

It destroyed 20 flats and damaged a further ten at De Pass Gardens, a six-storey block in Barking. Around 100 firefighters worked for more than two hours to subdue the fire.

Two people were treated at the scene after suffering from smoke inhalation.

But it could have been much worse because housing bosses had brushed aside residents' fears over fire risks.

Resident Mihaela Gheorghe said she had "raised several issues" about the safety of wooden balconies on the blocks of flats.

"We said that one day a fire is going to happen," she said. "We raised several issues to the builder, the maintenance companies and the council about the safety of having all these wooden balconies."

Peter Mason, Barking Reach residents' association chair, told the Guardian newspaper that he had asked builder Bellway Homes for the fire risk to be investigated in May.

BBC Watchdog had broadcast claims of safety problems at two other Bellway developments.

Bellway Homes told him not to worry.

Anniversary

The fire at De Pass Gardens comes ahead of the two-year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire this Friday (see pages 10&11).

Moyra Samuels from the Justice 4 Grenfell campaign told Socialist Worker, "The government has been sleep walking in terms of housing policy into all sorts of disasters."

"Other Grenfells are waiting to happen."

She added, "If you live in apartments, it doesn't take long for you to work out what's unsafe. Why would you build balconies out of



DE PASS Gardens on fire in Barking

BACK STORY

A fire in east London destroyed 20 flats on Sunday of last week

● Residents described how they had warned of "issues" with the building in the run-up to the blaze

● The fire came just days ahead of the two-year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire in west London

● Campaigners have slammed the government for failing to learn the lessons from the disaster

● Activist Moyra Samuels said, "Other Grenfells are waiting to happen."

flammable materials? It seems to be all about vanity projects and cost rather than residents' safety."

Grenfell residents repeatedly warned that the tower was unsafe well before the fire, but were fobbed off or spurned.

That attitude continues to dominate the rental sector.

A new survey by housing charity Shelter showed that over half of people renting a home from a local authority or housing association have had a problem with the building in the past three years.

This includes electrical hazards and gas leaks. And Shelter said among those with a problem, one

in ten had to report it more than ten times.

Moyra said, "There's an enormous amount of big gestures and big announcements from government."

"But there aren't firm decisions that can reassure private and council tenants that they are not going to die in their beds."

"I can't understand what the issue is—other than that safe housing for working class people is not priority for them."

On other pages...

Grenfell—two years without justice
>>Pages 10&11

Bereaved campaigner sent to jail

A GRENFELL justice campaigner was disgracefully jailed for eight weeks last month.

Reiss Morris, who lost a relative in the fire, had grabbed London Fire Brigade site manager Matthew Hogan on 9 April.

The court heard that Reiss had sent Hogan messages about the materials covering the burnt-out structure in the run-up to the incident.

He had previously received a suspended sentence after confronting Kim Taylor Smith, deputy leader of Tory-run Kensington and Chelsea council.

After a vigil in October 2017 Reiss said, "You have got eight weeks to sort this



Reiss Morris

out, then I'm coming for you.

"I don't care if I spend the rest of my life in prison."

It's a disgrace that Reiss has been jailed after being angry with the authorities.

He has also been banned from the Grenfell site and ordered to pay £100 in compensation to Hogan—on top of £250 in court costs and fees.

The Tory ministers, councillors, housing chiefs and private contractors—whose decisions allowed the fire to happen—are the real criminals.

Breakfast in



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IN THIS WEEK

1964

Nelson Mandela is jailed for life

NELSON Mandela was sentenced to life in prison on 12 June 1964 for his opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

He was eventually released in February 1990. Four years later he became president.



Ching ching! Tory leader challenges line up tax cuts for rich

by CHARLIE KIMBER

THE TORY leadership race is a battle between peddlers of class war against ordinary people.

But while the media swaps stories about who snorted or smoked what, the real reactionary agendas are hardly scrutinised.

Avoiding the major issues benefits the candidate that right wing newspaper owner Rupert Murdoch supports—Boris Johnson.

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt said that the legal limit for abortion should be reduced from 24 weeks to 12 weeks.

Asked if he could guarantee the legal limit would stay at 24 weeks if he became prime minister, Hunt said, “What I can guarantee is it will be a matter for the House of Commons.”

Hunt also wants to double spending on war and the military over the next decade.

Shovel

Meanwhile Johnson, the favourite for the job, outlined a plan to shovel huge amounts of workers’ money to the rich through tax cuts.

He hopes to raise the level at which people pay the 40 percent rate of income tax from £50,000 to £80,000 at an estimated cost of £10 billion.

This is essentially a tax cut for Tory party members, with those who grab stratospheric salaries gaining most.

Shifting the threshold in this way would not only slash taxes on incomes.

It would also mean more tax concessions for those who look forward to pensions of £100,000 or more a year.

It would be partly financed by increasing workers’ national insurance payment—effectively wage cuts.

Johnson added, “We should be cutting corporation tax and other business taxes”—another bonanza for the rich at the top of big business and shareholders.

Former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab—the one who resigned over the Brexit deal he had negotiated—said

BACK STORY

The Tories are fighting a leadership battle after Theresa May resigned

● May stepped down after failing several times to get parliament to vote for her deal for leaving the European Union

● Frontrunners in the race to replace her promise tax cuts for the rich and pay cuts for the rest of us.

● Many also appeal to bigotry, including Jeremy Hunt who wants to roll back abortion rights

he would take £500 million a year from the international aid budget.

He wants to use it to protect endangered species. Perhaps he means the Tory party.

Raab began his campaign by promising to cut 5p from the basic rate of income tax.

He would fund this by cutting back on public services and slashing jobs.

Raab argued for mass privatisation of state schools in 2013 and again in 2014, saying the government should open up the education system for companies to make money.

He has also suggested encouraging even more private companies into the NHS.

Michael Gove’s main policy offering is to abolish VAT and replace it with a “simple” sales tax.

Food

That’s likely to mean a lower rate of tax but on more goods—such as food which presently is not subject to VAT.

Gove also made a pitch for the bigots of the Democratic Unionist Party by saying he is “unionist to my bootstraps”.

None of the vile reactionaries standing for the leadership offer anything more than a continuation and acceleration of the policies of austerity, racism and fewer rights.

The real issue is not which of them wins but how we can build a movement that can drive them out.

TORY LEADERSHIP candidates want a key to Downing Street

Labour victory in Peterborough—but Brexit Party is still a danger

NIGEL FARAGE’S racist Brexit Party failed to win its first MP in Peterborough last week—but it won nearly 10,000 votes.

A by-election in the city saw Labour cling onto the seat by just 683 votes. Labour’s Lisa Forbes won 10,484 votes while Brexit Party candidate Mike Greene got 9,801. The Tories were pushed into third place.

The Brexit Party immediately turned to racist stereotypes to explain its defeat. A “source” blamed Labour’s win on securing a “mainly Pakistani vote”.

This source apparently said, “Some of these houses had 14 people in them registered to vote. It would be interesting to see what proportion voted Labour.”

Many had predicted that Labour would lose. It had narrowly won the seat by 607 votes in 2017. Voters recalled Labour MP Fiona Onasanya after she was jailed for

perverting the course of justice. And polls

showed growing support for the Brexit Party. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn declared the result a “great win”. He said it showed “clear support for Labour’s programme to end austerity” and was a rejection of the Tories’ “disastrous handling of Brexit”.

It’s true that the vote was a humiliation for the Tories, whose vote fell by more than a quarter. Yet Labour’s vote share fell by over 17 percent. And the result won’t end the rows engulfing Labour over Brexit and Corbyn’s leadership.

It won’t mean the end of the racist Brexit Party either. It’s now preparing for the next general election, with British Chambers of Commerce boss John Longworth drawing up a

manifesto. As Farage said after the Peterborough result, “Eight weeks ago the Brexit Party was launched. British politics has fundamentally changed. It’s no longer just two parties contesting.”

He said the party can win seats in the future.

“Voters are going to start to realise that if you vote Conservative you’re going to finish up with a Corbyn government,” he said. “Once that gets through we’ll begin to see tactical voting.”

Many Tories openly voted for the Brexit Party in last month’s European elections. Some left the Tories to join it. MP Crispin Blunt raised the prospect of reaching “some kind of electoral pact” with Farage’s party.

And the Tory leadership race is set to deliver a right wing, racist leader who is more closely aligned to Farage’s ideas. Anti-racists must keep campaigning to push back Farage, the Brexit Party and the racist Tories that feed him.

Sadie Robinson



EU leaders’ cruelty could lead to a ‘sea of blood’

THE RISK of migrants and refugees becoming shipwrecked in the Mediterranean and dying at sea is the highest it has ever been, the United Nations has warned.

The conflict in Libya means desperate people are trying to come to Europe. But there is a lack of rescue ships—withdrawn by European governments and the European Union.

“If we do not intervene soon, there will be a sea of blood,” said Carlotta Sami, the spokesperson for the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, in Italy.

Of the ten NGO rescue boats that were active in the Mediterranean, only one—operated by the German organisation SeaWatch—remains. Italian authorities seized the ship SeaWatch 3 three weeks ago.

Thousands of people are preparing



REFUGEES TRAVELLING on a boat

to leave Libya as the country is hit by war and floods.

But without rescue boats, the number of shipwrecks and drowning is likely to rise dramatically.

Almost 700 people have left the coast of Libya in the last fortnight, according to aid groups.

The Libyan coastguard intercepted around 5 percent of them and sent them back to detention centres. Some 40

percent arrived in Malta and 11 percent in Italy. It is not known what happened to the other 308.

Some 1,940 people have reached Italy since the beginning of 2019, according to data from UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration.

Almost 350 have died trying—putting the chance of drowning at about one in six.

Deaths rise in Syria as Assad assaults rebels

MORE THAN 1,500 people have been reported killed in Syria since the end of April as the regime assaults the final rebel stronghold.

At least half the dead are thought to be civilians.

The Syrian army of dictator Bashar Al Assad, along with the Russian military, is fighting to take back the north western province of Idlib.

As many as three million people are trapped there, caught between regime forces and the border of Western ally Turkey.

The Syrian army is assaulting the area—mostly controlled by Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al Sham, previously known as Jabhat Al Nusra—causing fierce fighting.

Meanwhile Russian warplanes pound towns and villages with airstrikes that destroy homes, schools and medical centres.

Trapped

Hundreds of thousands of people have already fled north from the southern part of the province. Now they are trapped in vast refugee camps at the Turkish border supplied with limited food, poor shelter and no sanitation.

The war began after a popular revolt shook the regime in 2011 during a wave of uprisings in the

Syrian dictator Bashar Al Assad

Middle East and North Africa.

Assad’s attempt to crush the revolution turned it into a civil war.

Fighting became dominated by disparate armed rebel and Islamist groups, backed by rival powers competing for control of the region.

Britain and the US clamoured for action against Assad at the height of the war in the hope of replacing him with a Western-friendly regime.

They are silent about Idlib now that the Assad regime has almost total control. And refugees who try to enter Europe are kept out by the cruel border policies of the European Union.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

DON’T WAIT FOR LABOUR—TAKE ON THE TORIES

US SECRETARY of state Mike Pompeo’s promise to “push back” against Jeremy Corbyn becoming prime minister exposed the US state’s attitude to democracy.

The secret recording will come as no surprise to millions of people in the Middle East, Latin America and swathes of the Global South.

The US has a long history of subverting democracy to protect its interests. It also relies on more subtle methods to influence politics, such as funding opposition parties and groups.

If a left wing government in Britain mounted a serious challenge to capital, the US and the bosses would do their best to derail it.

They would start with financial measures, but the threats of harsher methods remain.

A much more immediate threat to Corbyn is the lower-level thuggery of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). He was savaged at a PLP weekly meeting on Monday night over Brexit and allegations of antisemitism.

This was the first PLP meeting Corbyn addressed since the

European elections, which saw Labour pushed into third place behind the racist Brexit Party and the Lib Dems.

Tom Watson, Labour’s deputy leader, is leading the charge to shift the party’s policy in favour of a second referendum on Brexit.

Whatever ordinary Remain supporters’ motivations, the People’s Vote campaign is led by right wingers and big business.

One Labour MP complained that the “leadership is not there” on Brexit. Unfortunately that’s true as Corbyn tries to stick to Labour’s fudged position that dumps free movement but backs the neoliberal single market.

Right winger Margaret Hodge



Every time Corbyn retreats the right is emboldened to mount attacks

interrupt “business as usual” and force bosses to take notice.

In Glasgow, council management postponed negotiations for months—until 8,000 workers walked out last October. Bosses agreed to fresh talks on the second day of action.

And striking changes those involved. Workers who have never been involved in political activity are thrown into discussions about strategy, organising picketing and winning solidarity.

Reasoning with bosses won’t

attacked new Peterborough MP Lisa Forbes on Monday for signing a letter criticising the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Examples attached to it are used to restrict criticism of Israel, a key ally of US imperialism in the Middle East.

Every time Corbyn retreats over these issues the right is emboldened to mount stronger attacks.

The Tories—the party of British capitalism—is in the middle of an almighty crisis. And whoever wins the Tory leadership election, they are very unlikely to be able to push through a new Brexit deal by the 31 October deadline.

Even if Corbyn doesn’t take a more offensive approach, we should seek to capitalise on the Tories’ troubles.

We must take action, not wait for Labour. It’s why the school climate strikes later this month and the call for strikes in the week of action for the climate in September are so important.

We should seize on any opportunity to push for more demonstrations—such as at the Tory conference in September—and strikes and action in our workplaces and on campuses.

STRIKES ARE WAY TO WIN

TRAFFIC WARDENS in Camden are celebrating after strikes won them a stunning pay rise (see page 7).

The success by Unison union members in north London follows a recent victory by home care workers in Birmingham.

And last month council workers in Glasgow received details of financial settlements following a long equal pay battle.

It’s no coincidence that these workers won big after staging solid, decisive strikes. Strikes

interrupt “business as usual” and force bosses to take notice.

In Glasgow, council management postponed negotiations for months—until 8,000 workers walked out last October. Bosses agreed to fresh talks on the second day of action.

And striking changes those involved. Workers who have never been involved in political activity are thrown into discussions about strategy, organising picketing and winning solidarity.

Reasoning with bosses won’t

stop vicious attacks. But ordinary people taking action where they are strongest—in the workplace—can.

We’ve seen some victories lately because workers were sufficiently organised and supported to take action.

Instead of finding excuses not to fight back, union leaders should be encouraging many more strikes like these.

Local authority cuts are set to get deeper. But mass action by ordinary people can stop them.

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A festival of socialist ideas

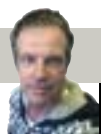
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ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER



City panic after investment crash

THE NEAR-COLLAPSE of an investment fund that few people will ever have heard of is sending shudders through the City of London.

The troubles facing Neil Woodford's Equity Income Fund could have disastrous consequences for working class people.

Such funds invest the wealth of individuals and firms. It's big business—Britain's asset management sector handles £8 trillion at any one time.

The funds are seen to offer a much higher rate of return than a boring savings account because of the "brilliance" of their managers. And, of course, those at the top take a slice of the profits for themselves.

In 2014 Woodford launched a new company with the backing of supporters at Hargreaves Lansdown, one of Britain's biggest investment companies.

Merryn Somerset Webb, MoneyWeek magazine editor, wrote in the Financial Times newspaper, "The hype was huge."

"Mr Woodford launched Patient Capital, an Equity Income Fund, an Income Focus Fund and a super snazzy website with lots of stuff about him on it."

All went well at first as the Equity Income Fund took in around £10 billion, seeing its share price soar.

Then it all went wrong.

In an effort to drive up profits, Woodford started to put money in companies whose shares are not bought and sold on mainstream stock exchanges. This makes it hard to turn the shares into cash quickly.

When people came calling for their money, it wasn't actually in the bank. The Equity Income Fund is down to £3.7 billion—"a number it is only hanging on to by refusing to let anyone else take their money," says Webb.

Although suspended, the fund is still taking in £100,000 in fees a day.

Bosses in the City of London are worried that problems will spread from one fund to another. Several other pension fund providers have now frozen investor withdrawals from funds that offer similar products to Woodford's ones.

Woodford's fund management empire has sold or transferred close to £600 million of stock this week. "This is categorically not a fire sale," said a Woodford spokesperson, fuelling fears that this was indeed an emergency sell-off.

Woodford himself is unlikely to feel the pinch. Last year a £36.5 million dividend was paid from the fund to Woodford Capital, controlled by Woodford and his business partner.

Victim

Webb concluded, "A lot of people will tell you that Neil Woodford has been a victim. A victim of Brexit. A victim of overly prescriptive regulation. A victim of the media."

"But either way, he is a very rich victim indeed. Someone's made a huge pile of money since 2014. You were told it could be you. It's actually been Neil Woodford."

It's not just fellow financiers who should be concerned. Kent County Council pension fund has £263 million invested in one of Woodford's funds. It was a request for the money's return that triggered its suspension.

The Unison and GMB unions said they have received a "steady stream" of calls from concerned council workers and the 135,000 pension fund members.

"People don't know where their money is going and how much is being spent on people who are telling us where to put that money," said Unison regional organiser Ryan Slaughter.

"There is no trade union representation at board level and there is no transparency over what fees are being paid to fund managers."

The council has form for troublesome investments, including a £50 million deposit in Icelandic banks that were placed in jeopardy by the financial crisis in 2008. It took nine years to get its money back.

Perhaps in the end the fund's woes will be staunch and everyone will go back to making profits. The whole episode demonstrates that the supposedly beefed-up regulation after the 2008 financial crash is wholly ineffective.

And the wider fears about the world economy are not going away. That's why every such event is scrutinised in case it is the one that might set off a bigger crisis.

LGBT+ attacks and threats show reality of homophobia

Bigotry comes as inclusive education is threatened, reports **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

THE IMPORTANCE of LGBT+ Pride Month has been underlined by a series of homophobic attacks.

In Britain there has been a rise in hate crimes against LGBT+ people.

Homophobic hate crimes increased in London from 1,488 in 2014 to 2,308 in 2018. Two LGBT+ women were left bloodied after an attack on a bus in the capital last week.

Police have arrested five teenagers, aged between 14 and 18, on suspicion of the attack on Melania Geymonat and her partner Chris.

Shortly afterwards a Southampton theatre pulled a play about an LGBT+ couple after two actors were attacked in the street last Saturday.

And the attacks are not limited to Britain.

In the US an armed group, the National Socialist Movement, descended on the Motor City Pride Festival in Detroit, Michigan. The dozen Nazis, wearing black shirts and swastika armbands, brandished guns and shields.

This came on the same day that Devon Roberts was charged for the murder of three LGBT+ people in the city. On the same day the Pride march in Washington DC ended in chaos after someone thought they heard a gunshot.

Seven people were taken



ACTIVISTS DEFIED the Nazi threat in Detroit (above) Chris and Melania shortly after being attacked (left)

outside Anderton Park Primary School in Birmingham.

He said last Saturday that the mainly Muslim parents had a "just cause".

Khakan Qureshi is an LGBT+ Muslim activist and part of the Supporting Education of Equality and Diversity in Schools campaign.

He told Socialist Worker, "This has not helped the situation in Birmingham. He should withdraw the comments or step down as an MP."

The bigots were on the back foot last week after organisers Shakeel Afsar and Amir Ahmed were pictured with racist columnist Katie

Hopkins. And they had been forced to take their mobilisation away from the school after the high court granted Birmingham City Council an injunction.

While their protest went ahead last Friday, it attracted only 40 people, much smaller than the hundreds who had joined previous ones.

Defendants Afsar and Ahmed appealed the decision at a hearing on Monday. The injunction was extended until a full trial next month.

The attacks show the need for a grassroots fight to defend LGBT+ rights against the bigots' attacks.

Edson Da Costa inquest rules 'misadventure'

EDSON DA Costa's family last week slammed an inquest conclusion that he died by "misadventure".

Edir, who was known as Edson, was 25 when he died just days after being stopped by police in Beckton, east London, in June 2017.

Edson's father Ginario said, "It is hugely upsetting to us that officers did not identify the risk that he might be choking."

The inquest jury said that Edson "died from the consequences of cardiorespiratory arrest" after he put a plastic bag containing drugs in his

mouth. The inquest had heard that Edson was restrained on the ground by four officers and sprayed in the face with CS gas. He was hit by two "distraction blows" and became unresponsive during the restraint.

Medical help was delayed after paramedics were given the wrong address by a Metropolitan Police Service call handler.

Deborah Coles from the Inquest charity said Edson was one of five young black men who died after police restraint within a six-month period. "Officers failed



Edson Da Costa

to recognise that he was choking," she said. "A hostile environment was created at this inquest through police lawyers, who sought to divert attention away from the circumstances that resulted in Edir's death."

Ginario said, "We cannot help but wonder whether Edir would still be here had the police identified the risk of choking earlier and taken steps to help him."

"Edir did not deserve to die in the way that he did and we will forever feel that if things had been done differently his life may have been saved."

Strikers in Camden win pay rise off outsourcer

Traffic wardens show that striking can get results after forcing bosses into paying up, reports Sarah Bates

STRIKES BY determined traffic wardens in Camden, north London, have scored a huge victory against outsourcing fat cats.

Around 130 Unison union members struck for 33 days for a pay rise and changes to safety procedures.

Strikers are hailing the news as a “significant improvement”.

The workers are outsourced to parking giant NSL. Strikes in 2015 won workers a pay deal worth 25p an hour above the London Living Wage.

But after the London Living Wage rose to £10.55 an hour, the firm refused to raise pay.

Workers have now won a pay rate of £11.08 for the lowest paid and improvements to the “code red” policy—where workers are injured or are attacked while at work.

Strikers voted by an overwhelming majority to accept the new three-year deal which will give them at least £1,000 extra every year.

Crucially, the new deal also incorporates the “attendance” bonus into the new basic pay rate.

Striker David told Socialist Worker that “bosses used the bonus as an instrument of control.”

When you are sick, you have to come in or they take your bonus.

“It means people who are genuinely sick lose a whole month’s bonus and stress levels go up and up.” Workers are so low paid that they have to work overtime just to survive.

But working outside in all weathers and with minimal rest breaks mean workers are often ill, and staff turnover is high.

Crucial

Liz Wheatley, Camden Unison branch secretary, said 33 days of walkouts were crucial in securing victory.

“Without strikes we never would have won this offer—this is a great win for our members.”

And Liz said action by the predominantly black workforce, many of them migrants, is evidence that “migrant workers don’t lower

BACK STORY

Traffic wardens in Camden, north London, have been fighting since October last year

● They demanded a pay rise after their pay didn’t rise in line with the London Living Wage

● Many had to take regular overtime just to make enough money to live on—despite having 42.5 contracted hours a week

● Now they have won £11.08 for the lowest paid—showing that strikes work

wages—they’re pulling wages up”.

A likely next step for outsourced workers is for their contracts, and the parking service, to be brought back in house to Camden council.

Workers want council terms, conditions and pay rates—and may have to strike again to get them.

“The struggle continues, all the employers care about is profits,” said David.

Raking

“They are raking it in—NSL creams off profits from the money it is given from Camden council for our contracts.”

Traffic wardens employed by NSL also struck in Wandsworth, south London and Westminster, central London, earlier this year.

David thinks Camden’s success means other NSL workers could be inspired to strike again.

“We’re happy that we’ve come to end of our strike but it will be having an impact on other branches—they will be looking at our action,” he said.

Every worker should be inspired by the Camden traffic wardens. They have showed that striking works.

David is a pseudonym

What’s your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk



WEST MIDLANDS lecturer Dave Muritu (centre) must be reinstated

PICTURE: GEOFF DEXTER

Protest backs lecturer Dave Muritu—sacked for resisting Prevent strategy

TRADE UNIONISTS, students and campaigners braved torrential rain to protest in support of Dave Muritu on Friday of last week.

Dave, UCU union branch secretary at Sandwell College in the West Midlands, was sacked after writing the word “racist” on a Prevent strategy poster.

Dave said the sacking marked “the end of three years of attempts to get me out. They are targeting me because our union branch has been so successful,” he told Socialist Worker.

“We won a sector-leading pay deal last year. Before that we campaigned to get lesson observations to be less punitive.

“We’ve gained extra holidays and when incremental pay rises were suspended we got them back.”

Solidarity

There has been an outpouring of solidarity with Dave. More than 6,000 people signed a petition demanding his reinstatement within days.

“The support has been amazing and it’s now spreading outside the union,” said Dave.

“And we are hopefully going to ballot for industrial action.”

Protesters gathered outside

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Support UCU rep Dave Muritu

- Sign the petition to reinstate Dave at bit.ly/DaveMuritu
- Send messages of solidarity to Dave Muritu dmuritu@hotmail.com
- Send messages of protest to: College Principal Graham Pennington graham.pennington@sandwell.ac.uk

the college last Friday lunchtime chanting, “Reinstate Dave—reinstate him now.” UCU reps travelled from across Britain to join the demonstration.

Local FBU and NEU union reps joined them along with other trade unionists, anti-racist campaigners and students.

Vicky Blake, UCU vice president nationally and Leeds university UCU president, told Socialist Worker, “Dave is an excellent comrade and teacher.

“He does not deserve to be sacked for a small but significant act of resistance to Prevent.”

Jean from Birmingham Stand Up To Racism added, “I’m here

because of the injustice of it. I don’t think it’s a sackable offence.”

Andrew Scattergood, chair of the FBU firefighters’ union in the West Midlands, said firefighters would stand “shoulder to shoulder” with Dave. “An attack on Dave is an attack on every firefighter,” he told the rally.

Proportion

Local Unison union member Mark said, “It’s just disgraceful. It’s completely out of proportion.

“It’s either anti-union or racism—and it’s probably both.”

The government claims its Prevent strategy is aimed at tackling all kinds of “extremism”.

In reality, it encourages Islamophobia by treating Muslims as potential terrorists.

Sandwell College student Beth told protesters that Dave’s actions “can be fairly justified” because Prevent “is a racist programme”.

Anti-racist campaigner Salma Yaqoob added, “Prevent was never about preventing radicalisation. It is about preventing dissent.”

Vicky told the protest, “If you come for one of us, you come for all of us—and we are now coming for Sandwell College.”

Sadie Robinson



Million take to streets in Hong Kong to stop law

Protests erupted against a repressive new law proposed by the Chinese state, writes **Sadie Robinson**

MASS PROTESTS hit Hong Kong last Sunday as fury erupted over a proposed law that could allow China to target activists and political opponents.

Organisers said that a million people marched—making it the biggest demonstration in over 20 years. And more protests were planned for Wednesday.

Demonstrators are resisting a law that would give Chinese authorities the right to demand the extradition of suspected criminals to mainland China for trial.

Protesters say the new law will give the Chinese state more power over Hong Kong. Lawyers and barristers have joined the demonstrations, as well as workers, students and pensioners.

An office secretary said she was marching because “many people were ‘disappeared’ in China” while university student Karen Chan said the bill was “nonsense”.

Some protesters tried to break into the legislative council government complex during the mass protest last Sunday. Police attacked them.

The Chinese state has thrown its backing behind the bill. Chinese state media has blamed “foreign forces” for “trying to create havoc” in Hong Kong.

Claims

Hong Kong leader, chief executive Carrie Lam, insisted that the bill had not been “initiated” by the Chinese government.

Hong Kong’s government wants to pass the legislation by next month. It claims the bill will make people safer. “Nobody wants Hong Kong to be a fugitive offenders’ haven,” said Lam.

Protesters chanted, “Scrap the evil law,” “Oppose China extradition,” and, “Carrie Lam resign,” during Sunday’s protest.

The huge numbers meant it had to move off early and police were forced to open up side roads.

Hong Kong was a British colony until 1997, when sovereignty was

BACK STORY

Huge protests have erupted in Hong Kong

● A repressive new law would give the Chinese state powers to target political opponents

● Hong Kong was a British colony until 1997 when it was returned to China

● It still has a level of political and economic autonomy from the Chinese state

returned to China. It now has an independent legal system, rights including freedom of speech and assembly, its own economic system and the Hong Kong dollar.

But China controls foreign and defence policy.

And the chief executive is appointed by the State Council, which is led by the Chinese prime minister.

Voters

China’s government had promised direct elections for the chief executive by 2017.

But it reneged on this in 2014, saying voters could only choose from a short list of candidates approved by a pro-China committee.

This led to mass protests and occupations known as the “Umbrella Movement” in late 2014.

Up to 2.3 million people joined demonstrations, while an occupation in Hong Kong’s central district lasted for 79 days.

Activists involved are still being hounded. In April nine activists were jailed for up to 16 months after being convicted on “public nuisance” charges for their role in the protests.

Judge Johnny Chan said the “unreasonableness” of the obstruction “was such that the significant and protected right to demonstrate should be displaced”.

But the reaction to the extradition law shows that the potential for resistance in Hong Kong remains.

HONG KONG protesters are saying no to new extradition powers for the Chinese state

ALGERIA

Protesters keep up fight for change

PEOPLE TOOK to the streets of Algeria last week in huge numbers for the 16th successive Friday of protests.

Hundreds of thousands joined the protest in the capital Algiers—and there were marches in at least 14 other cities and towns.

Everywhere people demanded the resignation of interim president Abdelkader Bensalah.

The main slogans were “You all go” and “No elections with this gang.”

Planned elections run by the current state structures, which protesters say are illegitimate, were scrapped last week.

Bensalah has vowed to stay until a new president is elected, a process which could take months.

There have been waves of protests and strikes since president Abdelaziz Bouteflika was forced out in April.

But his handpicked replacement Bensalah remains in place.

Bensalah called for talks with the opposition to plan fresh elections last week.

However the offer was rejected by the movement which wants transparent elections with no involvement of those associated with Bouteflika.

Algeria’s interim president Bensalah

PALESTINE

US backs Israel’s right to grab more land

ISRAEL HAS the right to claim ownership of even more stolen Palestinian land, a senior US diplomat has said.

US ambassador to Israel David Friedman told the New York Times newspaper that Israel was “entitled to retain some portion” of the land it seized after invading in 1967.

And he denied the

fact that “the entire West Bank and East Jerusalem belong” to Palestinians, who have been gradually forced from their land since Israel was created in 1948.

Friedman’s comments are the latest indication that the US is preparing to allow Israel to annexe vast swathes of Palestinian land in a coming deal. He

also hinted that the deal would not allow Palestinians to form their own state on the remaining land.

Some 850,000 Palestinians were forced to flee in 1948. Israel militarily occupied the remaining Palestinian land in 1967, and has built vast settlements there in a bid to claim the land permanently.

Trump’s ambassador to Israel David Friedman

Don't let bigotry divide us

SHAKEEL AFSAR and Amir Ahmed invited Islamophobe Katie Hopkins to dinner last week. The two Muslim men have been organising protests against LGBT+ education at Anderton Park School in Birmingham.

Oppressed groups are not exempt from the pull of the far right. In fact, since a sense of powerlessness is inherent within them, it can make it more attractive.

That's why we formed LGBT+ Against Islamophobia in 2014. The far right had aligned with some LGBT+ racists—yes, we called them what they were—to attack Muslims.

Of course we got abuse for it and we caused an argument. But it was a necessary argument in the labour movement—and it made it stronger.

I hope people do the same about homophobia.

It doesn't mean people have to change their faith or their beliefs. However, I can categorically say most of the information circulating about LGBT+ people or relationships education has been a pack of lies.

Not taking a firm stand against homophobia is a mistake—as is not opposing those that seek to divide us.

It's time to bring our communities together to make a stand against those who would ultimately take all our rights away.

In doing so, we might have to argue with our friends, educate each other, correct any necessary mistakes and move forward together.

Geoff Dexter
Birmingham

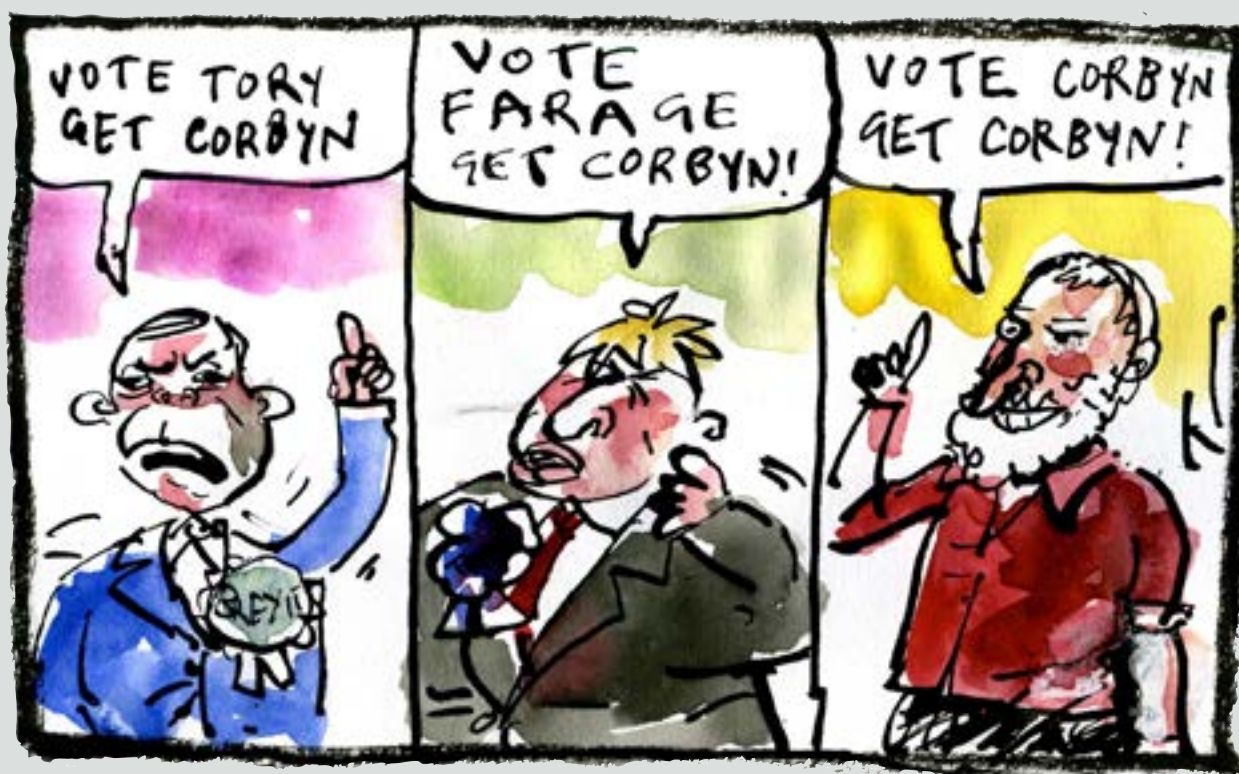


ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

'Hostile environment' must end at our local hospital

OUR STAND Up To Racism (SUTR) group in Wandsworth, south London, protested over the "hostile environment" at a meeting of St George's Hospital Trust board last week.

It was part of our campaign against the board's policy of checking patient's passports, denying migrants free care, charging upfront for treatment and hiring debt collectors to chase payments.

This denial of free care to migrants from outside the European Union is a threat to public health.

And it forms part of a wider policy of building a hostile environment for migrants,

introduced by soon to be former prime minister Theresa May.

We had two local Labour councillors, the Unite union's regional officer for the NHS and several Wandsworth SUTR members on the protest.

June from the SUTR group argued, "The law requires doctors to make life and death decisions based on immigration status and ability to pay rather than patients' needs."

"The law costs more to implement than the relatively small amount it saves."

"It was brought in to attack immigrants, not to save money."

The board refused to give time to a representative from those who

had come to lobby against the policy.

The SUTR group presented a "Free health care for all" petition, with 938 signatures collected in the streets of Wandsworth.

We will next raise the issue with Wandsworth council's health overview and scrutiny committee on Tuesday 18 June.

And we will continue to campaign against this "hostile environment" alongside the Patients Not Passports health workers' group at St George's hospital.

We will not stop until this racist law is repealed.

Francine Koubel
South London

Support our fight over public transport for all

EVERYONE ACCEPTS there is a crisis in our public transport system.

Private rail and bus companies rake in profits while fares rise.

Communities are left isolated as bus services are slashed.

And pollution and congestion on our roads get worse.

That's why we organised a Yorkshire and the Humber regional transport conference in Barnsley last month.

Around 100 people

discussed how to fight for an alternative. The conference agreed to launch a national petition calling for all public transport to be renationalised

And we unanimously agreed to create a regional manifesto that can be used to organise campaigns.

Anyone who wants information about the manifesto or wants to be involved contact me on fran.pos10@gmail.com

Fran Postlethwaite,
Barnsley

Unity to stop rise of right wing ideas

WITH THE rise of Nigel Farage's Brexit Party, we are facing a right wing mood among sections of working class people.

The popularity of racist Tory MP Enoch Powell in 1968 was similar.

In the time of Powellism, the best response was to steadfastly oppose racism while uniting with anyone and everyone on day to day issues.

That's true in the workplaces, where socialists could have face to face contact with



Enoch Powell

people influenced by right wing ideas.

We need to use the same method now.

Whether we voted Leave or Remain, we should oppose the racism of Farage and expose his

reactionary programme of tax cuts for the rich and privatisation.

It would be a tragic mistake and divisive for the Labour Party to advocate a second referendum.

If Boris Johnson comes to office and pushes through a no-deal Brexit, we should mobilise opposition to the right on housing estates, in workplaces and in elections. We need to do that whether we are inside or outside the EU.

Paul Burnham
North London

Just a thought...

A climate of hypocrisy

TORY leadership candidate Rory Stewart has vowed to double spending on fighting climate change.

The same Rory Stewart has largely voted in parliament against measures to prevent climate change. That's the sort of hypocrisy which shows Stewart is fit to lead the Tories.

Sasha Simic
East London

A rat race on a sinking ship

I'VE HEARD of rats leaving a sinking ship.

But with so many announcing their intention to stand for Tory leader, it must be the first time in history that rats have decided to join a sinking ship.

John Curtis
Essex

Famine on the Scottish isles

I READ your column on Tom Devine's book on the Scottish clearances (Socialist Worker, 5 June).

Islands such as Mull and Iona also experienced a famine in the 19th century leading to more mass evictions.

James Charles
On Twitter

What could Corbyn do?

I DON'T think that Jeremy Corbyn wants to come out in favour of a second referendum over Brexit.

But where else are we going? A new leader of the Labour Party but with the same problems?

Thomas Gibbons
On Facebook

■ JUST LOOK at who supports a second referendum. It's what all the bosses and bankers want.

Andres Viveros
On Facebook

Celebrate Glasgow win

WELL DONE all the strikers at Glasgow Council who won their battle for equal pay (Socialist Worker 5 June).

Such moments of women workers' victory are indeed rare

Rajeev Mishra
On Facebook

GRENFELL TWO YEARS WITHOUT JUSTICE

The fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017 should have been a defining moment that led to fundamental changes. But, writes **Alistair Farrow**, two years on there has been a series of cover-ups, diversions and lies

TORY DELAYS, excuses and contempt for ordinary people have dogged those searching for justice for the Grenfell Tower fire.

Two years on from the atrocity that claimed at least 72 lives, there is still a long way to go to win justice. The public inquiry into the fire has been delayed, then delayed again. Now its second phase won't begin until 2020.

The criminal investigation has been delayed to wait for the inquiry to conclude. The Met Police has said no criminal charges will be made until 2021—after the inquiry has published its findings.

Aware that the two-year anniversary was approaching, police last week announced that 13 people have been interviewed under caution in connection with the fire.

But there is no indication of who they are, and no sign that the government ministers, MPs, council chiefs and corporate criminals are facing jail.

The police have been swift to hunt down anyone suspected of fraudulently claiming to be a victim of the fire. The immensely bigger culprits are still unpunished.

Now Tory MP for Sutton and Cheam Paul Scully has the audacity to say that people shouldn't fixate on "arbitrary deadlines".

He was speaking at a parliamentary debate on the fire in the House of Commons on Thursday of last week.

Moving the debate in parliament the Labour MP Emma Dent-Coad described the contempt with which people have been treated.

She said, "In the early days after the fire, my predecessor as MP wrote to the council to air her concern

about the numbers of people roaming around the streets 'like gangs'.

"A senior council officer was told to go down to the site but refused, saying, 'It's like little Africa down there.' Another said that the area was full of people 'from the tropics'.

"A senior officer regularly, in front of others, referred to my neighbours as 'muzzies'. A recent visitor to the walkways was congratulated by a senior councillor for entering the 'lion's den'.

Appalling

"I say 'vulnerable'—they say 'volatile'. This attitude is hardly surprising. About two years ago during a debate on refugee children, a senior councillor said, 'If we let these people in, we will have an Islamic Caliphate in Kensington and Chelsea.' Racism or snobbery—take your pick."

Such appalling levels of racism and class hatred give an idea of the reason why the Tories have been so slow to act—before, after and during the fire.

There are dozens of ways people are being denied justice in North Kensington, argued Moyra Samuels from Justice4Grenfell. "A lack of affordable childcare means parents—and overwhelmingly women—can't attend meetings at the council or scrutiny committee," she said. "This means whole swathes of people are getting locked out from the justice process.

"The council's response has been to just advertize what few childcare services it does offer."

Every delay and every time the Tories introduce an element of confusion or division means that justice gets a little further away.

As Eileen Short from Defend Council Housing argued, "Politicians have a hundred reasons to tell you they can't do something. But when we organise they can shift very quickly."

Campaigners have resolutely refused to be silent about the injustice of Grenfell. Their work, and the support from the trade union movement—in particular the FBU fire-fighters' union—has achieved results.

Council leaders were forced to stand down in the face of huge



public anger in the aftermath of the fire. When 100,000 people signed a petition demanding a wider panel for the public inquiry that happened too.

That anger needs to be kept alive and directed at the right people—the Tories in the council and those in the government who made decisions that allowed Grenfell to happen.

Response

Speaking in parliament, Scully asked, "How many times have we said in this place, 'This must never happen again' and then similar things have happened again?"

"We need a comprehensive response that we can all learn from."

Yet the Tories are ensuring that such a response is ever-more remote.

Theresa May claims she is proud of her record on Grenfell. During her resignation speech in May she said

Tory 'self-regulation' paves the way for more disasters

SIX PEOPLE died, and at least 20 were injured, when a high-rise fire spread through Lakanal House in Camberwell, south London, in 2009. Like Grenfell, it showed that fires were not always kept from spreading by building design.

One key recommendation made by the coroner at the inquest was the installation of fire sprinklers in buildings.

The Tory communities minister at the time, Eric Pickles, refused to make this a legislative requirement. Instead he just suggested landlords carry it out.

After the Grenfell fire Theresa May said there would be no extra money for sprinklers and that it was "up to the council to make decisions" about funding such work.

On Thursday of last week housing minister Kit Malthouse reiterated this argument. He refused to give guarantees about making sprinklers or other specific safety work a legal requirement.

Given that a third of Tory MPs are private landlords it is hardly surprising the party is keen not to regulate the sector.

This is the kind of attitude that led to Grenfell in the first place. The self-regulation of the building industry through privatised fire safety inspectors meant Grenfell Tower was passed as fit for purpose by inspector Carl Stokes.

In his recent book, academic



Lakanal House fire in London 2009

Stuart Hodgkinson argues that "an estimated 85 percent of all building work that requires the notification of building control bodies is now self-certified."

"This means that, as a rule, the regulators of safety in the built environment increasingly have to take the word of the relevant contractor that behind the façade of a shiny new building everything has been built to safe and legal standards," he said.

The Tories' response to Grenfell has been typical of those who protect the bosses after such atrocities.

On Thursday last week Tory MP Sir David Amess spread the blame around. He said, "It's the fault of every member of parliament that our voice was not heard and that the recommendations [after Lakanal House] were not listened to."

Yet the Tories have been told what to do time and again.

Clock ticking down to a tragedy

2 May 2012
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) council cabinet approves £6 million budget to refurbish Grenfell Tower.

January 2013
Preferred contractor Leadbitter estimates the cost of the work at £11.3 million.

16 July 2013
The Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) requests the budget be increased to £9.7 million. The council decides to put the contract out to tender "to ensure the best contractor is selected and value for money achieved".

July 2013
Cabinet approves a new budget of £9.7 million. A new planning application is submitted which specifies the use of zinc—non-flammable—cladding. This is approved on 10 January 2014.

27 March 2014
Rydon Property Services Ltd is selected as the contractor for the refurbishment because it submitted "the most economically advantageous tender".

31 March 2014
Financial report shows council had reserves of £267 million in total usable reserves and a £31 million underspend in its annual budget.

June 2014
Work begins on site at Grenfell.

6 July 2014
The TMO sends an "urgent nudge email" to managers working on the Grenfell Tower refurbishment, reminding them to provide "good costs" for councillor Rock

Fielding-Mellen, lead councillor for housing. Days later the TMO sends a list of requested savings totalling £693,161 to contractors. The savings include £293,368 that would be found by fitting "aluminium cladding in lieu of zinc cladding". The cheaper, flammable, cladding is used.

31 March 2016
The council's 2015-16 accounts show its total usable reserves have risen to £300 million.

13 July 2016
Work completed at Grenfell.

November 2016
Grenfell Action Group blog post predicting "only a catastrophic event will expose the ineptitude and incompetence of our landlord".

14 June 2017
The Grenfell Tower Fire.

15 June 2017
Theresa May announces a Public Inquiry into the fire.

16 June 2017
Hundreds march on Downing Street to demand justice and for Theresa May to step down. Simultaneously thousands of local residents march through Kensington, with some storming the town hall.

22 June 2017
Council chief executive Nicholas Holate steps down.

29 June 2017
Sir Martin Moore Bick appointed as Inquiry chair.

30 June 2017
Council leader Nicholas Paget-Brown and councillor for housing Rock Fielding-Mellen stand down.

July 2017



'I beg you, do not play games with us. I beg you, do not tell us lies. I beg you, do not waste our time.'
Survivor Mahboubah Jamalvatan, as she addressed councillors

14 September 2017
Formal opening of the Inquiry.

30 November 2017
Petition is launched by bereaved families calling for an

12 December 2018
Oral hearings for Phase One of the Inquiry end.

30 May 2019
Two panel members appointed for Phase Two.

Two years on and still homeless

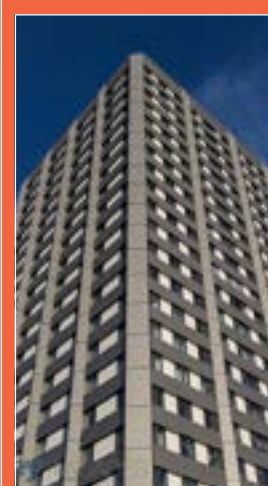
IMMEDIATELY after the fire Theresa May made promises. The first was that people "will be offered rehousing within three weeks".

Two years on from the fire, some households displaced by it are still living in temporary accommodation and hotels.

The official figure of people in and around Grenfell Tower still awaiting rehousing is 19 tenants. But a tenant can comprise a household of many people.

Only those made

homeless from the tower and the facing Grenfell Walk are



counted in those official statistics.

In the walkways attached to the tower, there are a further 109 homeless households as of last month, making a total of 128 homeless households—about 250 people.

Some remain in their homes, which re-traumatise them every day. The council has removed those households from the wider Grenfell rehousing scheme, and they will now languish on the council waiting list—some for many years.



Campaigner Moyra Samuels

Grenfell Silent Walk

Two years on

★ **Friday 14 June**
Assemble 7pm
Notting Hill Methodist Church
240 Lancaster Rd, London W11 4AH
Details at bit.ly/Grenfell2years

Grenfell solidarity march

★ **Saturday 15 June**
Assemble 12 noon, Downing Street
Details at bit.ly/GrenfellJune



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties.

We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

BLACK COUNTRY

Angela Davis—women, race and class

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
St. Peter's Café,
4 Exchange St,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1TS

LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST

System change not climate change

Thu 20 Jun, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

OXFORD

Where now for the Sudanese revolution?

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,
Oxford Town Hall,
St Aldate's,
OX1 1BX

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

China in revolt—30 years since Tiananmen Square

Mon 17 Jun, 6pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNESLEY

What do we mean by the working class?

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,
Room 302, The Civic,
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BRISTOL

Migration and climate change

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CARDIFF

Race, class and identity

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

COVENTRY

Do we need violence to achieve real change?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

EDINBURGH

Is growth good for the planet?

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL



RACISTS—THE BREXIT Party's Nigel Farage (left) and Tory right winger Jacob Rees-Mogg

The Brexit Party and the Tory crisis—how can the left gain?

BRADFORD

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

COLCHESTER

Thu 27 Jun, 8pm,
Oyster Room - Hythe
Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TXI

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Wed 19 Jun, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
SE8 4RH

GLASGOW

50 years after the Stonewall riots—are the oppressed free?

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

Trump, environmental crisis and the growth of the far right—what's the socialist alternative?

Wed 19 Jun, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade
(near both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

KENT

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Thu 20 Jun, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
Chatham,
ME4 4BP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Repression and resistance—where now for the Sudanese revolution?

Thu 20 Jun,
7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: HACKNEY

Can the Green New Deal stop catastrophic climate change?

Thu 20 Jun, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd, E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

What would a socialist society look like?

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd,
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

China in revolt—30 years since Tiananmen Square

Wed 19 Jun, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON: NEWHAM

Sex and sexuality in the era of Love Island

Wed 19 Jun, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove, E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Wed 19 Jun, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd,
Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St, E2 7EG

NEWCASTLE

Venezuela, crisis and socialism

Wed 19 Jun, 7pm,
Floor 2, Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

NORWICH

From Orgreave to Hillsborough—why are there police cover-ups?

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Migration and climate change

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

PORTSMOUTH

Grenfell two years on—will the inquiry bring justice?

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

The state and its monopoly on violence—what's the answer?

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Murdered by the state—Blair Peach, socialist and anti-racist

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St, S1 2JB

SWANSEA

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 20 Jun, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Socialists, strikes and trade unions—how do we fight back?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade
Wellington, TF1 1PY

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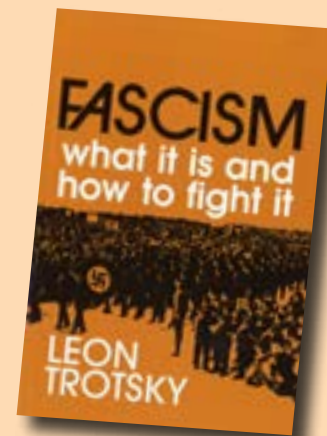
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When art from streets raged at the silence over HIV/AIDS

Artist **Keith Haring**'s work came out of the New York graffiti and gay scenes. A new exhibition in Liverpool charts his too-brief career, writes **Noel Halifax**

THERE HAS been a tension between art and the art market for a very long time.

The very fact that art is given a price illustrates a contradiction at the heart of society. It dehumanises and commodifies something which is intimate, human and unique.

Pop art of the 1950s and 1960s played with this contradiction, both making fun of and highlighting its foolishness. The art movement intentionally blurred the lines between high and low art—between art and advertising, for example.

The early Andy Warhol was adept at playing this game, but also introduced tension into the relationship by holding a mirror up to that world.

But there was always a danger that such games could fall flat and the art succumb to commercial pressures—becoming what it was trying to expose.

The later Warhol fell into the celebrity trap and his art lost most of its edge.

He became part of the shallow world of the Studio 54 disco scene, rubbing shoulders with the rich and meaningless debutantes.

In the 1970s and 1980s a second wave of pop, or post-pop, developed in New York alongside the now-establishment world of Warhol.

On the streets of the run-down and semi-abandoned areas of New York, tagging and graffiti street art blossomed.

Establishment

It was an art movement from below that revived and broke through the dead world of pop establishment art.

Keith Haring was one of these new artists that did their work on the streets.

His art came from the street tagging and subway art movement and the gay disco and bar scene of lower Manhattan.

Along with such artists of the time as Robert Mapplethorpe he also represented a new confidence in gay expression.

It was a post-Stonewall art celebrating the hedonism and vibrancy of New York.

Along with Jean-Michel Basquiat, he also represented a meeting of the street art with the older established pop art of Warhol. As Basquiat did, Haring



SILENCE = Death (top) was one of Haring's most outspoken attacks on the way Aids/HIV epidemic was hidden and regarded as somehow shameful. He also used his art to take aim at the flooding of New York's slums with crack cocaine. He was frequently arrested for his graffiti on the streets and subway systems of New York (above)

worked with Warhol. Haring's breakthrough came with what was to be the event that destroyed him and the world he was showing. HIV/Aids came along, and with it a reactionary backlash.

When Haring became HIV positive he engaged his art to express the fight against this homophobic backlash, and to become part of it.

His art became the face of Act Up, the LGBT political street activist movement challenging the government and

the medical establishment to support research to fight HIV/Aids.

Haring strived to put his art to the service of the campaigns to challenge the right wing reaction to the disease.

Suffered

His art has long been out of fashion as it has been criticised for being too much like advertising.

But this exhibition shows the wide range of Haring's work, though his career was brief—he died of Aids in 1990.

It is the biggest exhibition of his work ever seen in this country and most of it has never been seen here before.

He worked with many other artists of the time—Madonna, Grace Jones and Vivienne Westwood, to

name some—making sets designs for videos and performances. Some of that work is on display here.

His art became an art of political engagement, of a community fighting back and retaining a vibrancy and a defiance in the darkest of times.

Keith Haring is at the Tate Liverpool from 14 June to 10 November. For tickets and more information, go to bit.ly/HaringLiverpool £12.50, £10.50 concessions

FILM

HERO

Directed by Frances-Anne Solomon

On limited release from 22 June

For a list of screenings, go to bit.ly/HeroScreenings

THE IMAGINED words of CLR James to his compatriot Ulric Cross, "You were born in 1917, the year of the Russian Revolution... you were born into freedom," set the scene for Hero.

It's a film about the remarkable life and work of the little-known black Trinidadian airman, broadcaster, lawyer and



Nikolai Salcedo plays Ulric Cross

diplomat. As an RAF Squadron Leader during the Second World War, he became the West Indies' most decorated war veteran.

The film utilises archive footage, oral testimony and dramatic imaginative reconstruction to brilliantly bring to life the wider struggles of the Windrush generation against popular and institutional racism in Britain.

It also brings to life the fight for colonial liberation in Africa and the Caribbean in the aftermath of the Second World War.

There are one or two very slight historical anomalies.

But overall the film succeeds in using Cross's life as a prism for telling the wider story of decolonisation.

It also tells the story of the lost dream of Pan-Africanism.

It features an all-star cast, bringing figures like George Padmore, CLR James, Amy Ashwood Garvey, Ras T Makonnen, WEB Du Bois, Kwame Nkrumah and Patrice Lumumba to the big screen.

Sadly this film has a limited release in Britain at the moment.

Hopefully this will change as this inspiring film deserves to make the biggest possible impact and attain the widest possible audience.

Christian Hogsbjerg

A section of *Untitled (Love)*, 1989

SUDAN'S rulers are trying to drown an uprising in blood. The assault on the protest camp in Khartoum last week left at least 110 dead—almost certainly many more.

The Rapid Support Force—hardened killers steeled through years of carrying out slaughter in the Darfur region—were unleashed to beat, rape and kill. Sit-ins were also violently dispersed in 13 other cities, with unknown numbers of casualties.

This is a crucial turning point. Either it will see the victory of ferocious counter-revolution, or it could lead to the deepening of the revolt, further radicalisation and a push for fundamental change.

The massacre followed six months of developing protests that began over bread prices last December.

They grew to such a scale, and became so clearly political, that the military had to remove dictator Omar al-Bashir who had ruled for 30 years.

The Sudanese military shed the figurehead Bashir, but not the essential elements of the way he ruled.

The generals' Transitional Military Council (TMC) that now runs the country wants Bashirism without Bashir—a heavily militarised regime that relies on divide and rule.

Achieving that has proved very difficult. For nearly two months mass sit-ins saw hundreds of thousands of ordinary people take a direct part in trying to win civilian rule.

Strikes in individual firms spread to whole industries and then a two-day general strike on 28 and 29 May. The fear that this power would grow pushed the military to act.

Whenever a dictator is brought down by mass resistance, or a revolution begins, there are three broad reactions in society.

Yearn

One group—those who have profited from the old regime—yearn for the return of the former system of rule.

In Russia in 1917 the February Revolution overthrew the ruler, the Tsar. Afterwards, sections of his state entourage, bosses, landlords and military figures looked for an opportunity to “restore order”.

In Egypt during the 2011 revolution, toppled dictator Hosni Mubarak's networks in the state and industry worked to bring back what had existed before.

Because they have to confront an insurgent people, those who directly seek to reverse change often resort to methods of terror and mass murder.

They frequently rely on backing from external forces.

Significantly just before the massacre the TMC's leader and deputy leader visited Egypt,



SUDANESE PROTESTERS defend barricades against the militias

SUDAN—A REVOLT ON THE BRINK

The uprising in Sudan has reached a pivotal moment, says **Charlie Kimber**. Attempts to crush it could either drown it in blood—or push it to struggle for deeper-reaching change



Murderer Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo

Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. These are all US and British allies in the region that tremble at the thought of revolution.

They supplied billions of dollars and weapons to the TMC.

A second group accepts or even rejoices in the passing of the old regime.

But it wants to halt any further developments, do deals with elements of the previous government and clamp down on any revolutionary methods.



Revolution requires a force that can run society in a new way

In Russia this section spanned a very big group that clustered around the Provisional Government that replaced the Tsar's rule.

In Egypt the Muslim Brotherhood, elected after the fall of Mubarak, undoubtedly wanted some reforms.

But it was bitterly opposed to a major economic and political restructuring of society.

In Sudan this section is represented by some of those who have been part of the protests.

They wanted the military out, but hoped they could be calmly sidelined by a process of negotiations and compromises.

This group saw the strikes and sit-ins as bargaining chips to strengthen the opposition in talks. The military played along with this, taking the time to regroup after the initial shock of Bashir's removal. Then they went back on the offensive.

A third group, always a minority at the start of such processes, wants more than new faces at the top and a shuffle of the ruling elite.

They demand revolution that smashes the old state and creates a new form of democratic power.

The Bolsheviks played this role in the Russian revolution, becoming more popular as the masses learned through harsh experience the role of the liberal compromisers.

The liberals would not end involvement in the First World War or give the land to the peasants and the factories to the workers.

DURING periods of deep social crisis, these three groups contend for influence and power.

Moving from revolt to revolution requires a force that can organise the defeat of the military and run society in a new way. There needs to be workers' councils that involve elected and accountable representatives from workplaces.

These can act as a focus for and involve other groups that have been prominent in the revolt. This includes women's organisations for example, and the movements for equality and rights in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Workers' councils are not simply created from wishes and speeches. They flow from the reality of mass strikes and the need to take over production and distribution.

When, for example, bread workers are on strike, how are the workers fed? There has to be an organisation for workers and the poor to decide democratically how to run the bakeries and who gets the bread.

It's the same with the power plants and the hospitals and all the parts of Sudanese society.

The sit-ins were not run by workers' councils. But they included Revolutionary Committees that, in a rudimentary way, organised security and food distribution and communications.

The experience of the sit-ins can be a spur to the development of workers' councils.

There are some hopeful signs. Strikes began immediately after the Khartoum massacre at six sites of the Petro Energy Oilfield Operations Group in West Kordofan.

Millions stayed away from work last Sunday—the first day of the working week.

There have been mass demonstrations against the military

in several cities. With great bravery groups of young people in Khartoum have been building barricades to block the RSF.

The refusal of the revolution to die has unnerved the military. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the ruling military council, said two days after the massacre that he was prepared to resume negotiations without precondition with the opposition.

General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, leader of the murderous RSF announced a “fair and independent” investigation into the sit-in killings.

He promised that anyone who “crossed boundaries” will be punished—presumably starting with himself.

There has to be an attempt to split the armed forces. There are signs of the potential to achieve this.

Channel 4 journalist Yusra Elbagir interviewed a member of the intelligence agency who had defected to the side of the revolution.

He told her that regular soldiers were disarmed and removed from near the sit-in site before the massacres and replaced by the RSF.

In other words the generals were unsure of the loyalties of sections of regular soldiers—who certainly might balk at mass murder of protesters.

Mutiny

A determined revolutionary movement could persuade at least some of the army—staffed largely by conscripts—to mutiny, and neutralise others.

Such revolts would provide the means to defend a revolution from the RSF.

There must be no more talks and deals with the military.

A dictatorship that has ruled for 30 years has penetrated into every area of life, and created networks of privilege and control.

There has to be a thoroughgoing clearing-out of all aspects of the military in Sudanese society. The potential and the hunger for this has already been seen in Sudan.

When workers at the Sudanese Electricity Distribution Company in Khartoum struck last month one of their demands was dismissing the general manager and his deputy.

Teachers in West Darfur who have been striking for weeks said they wanted to “exclude the figures of the former regime from decision making



THE February Revolution in Russia 1917 installed a Provisional Government—but it opened fire on those who demonstrated demanding more (top) Egyptian revolutionaries had to fight forces that attacked them in defence of the regime of Hosni Mubarak (above)

and dissolve the trade unions established by the former regime.”

To turn potential into reality requires political leadership.

It is precisely at such moments that a revolutionary party, located in all the sections of the exploited and oppressed is necessary to chart a way forward and defeat the politics of those who want to half-make a revolution.

After General Kornilov tried to murder the Russian revolution, Leon Trotsky wrote, “A revolution needs from time to time the whip of the counter-revolution”.

He meant that the revolution radicalised because people had seen the true face of the ruling class.

Our solidarity goes to those fighting for revolution in Sudan.

READ MORE

● **The History of the Russian Revolution** by Leon Trotsky £20
● **The Egyptian workers' movement and the 25 January Revolution** International Socialism journal article by Anne Alexander online at bit.ly/25JanWorkers

● **Egyptian socialists on five lessons from Sudan and Algeria** Online at Socialist Worker bit.ly/EgyptLessons

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Why should Corbyn want to want to meet Trump?

Nick Clark looks at what lay behind Labour's Jeremy Corbyn failure to meet US president Donald Trump

SO DID Jeremy Corbyn want to meet Donald Trump last week or not? He refused to join Trump for dinner and joined a protest against his visit, yet also hoped to use that visit to meet him.

It's the sort of peculiar, particular path that only Corbyn could tread.

Corbyn got a lot of praise for refusing to attend the state banquet with Trump, including from some quarters usually hostile to him.

It was the same for the speech he made at the march in central London—the first demonstration he's attended in some time.

So it could have been a big embarrassment when Trump revealed that, actually, Corbyn had tried to arrange a meeting with him. And even more so when it turned out that Trump was the one who refused to meet.

Yet somehow this time Corbyn got away with it.

Probably

Certainly being called a “negative force” by Trump probably makes you okay in most people's books. But as it turned out, Corbyn was “absolutely not refusing to meet anybody”.

“I want to be able to have that dialogue to bring about the better and more peaceful world that we all want to live in,” he said.

He just thought that “maintaining an important relationship with the United States does not require the pomp and ceremony of a state visit”.

That leaves open a few questions.

First, what useful dialogue could Corbyn possibly have with Trump? What makes a state visit more unacceptable than any other meeting? And why is maintaining Britain's relationship with the US so important to Corbyn anyway?

Corbyn's spokesperson said, “Jeremy is ready to



Trump and Corbyn and balloon

engage with the president on a range of issues, including the climate emergency, threats to peace and the refugee crisis.”

If he thinks he can convince Trump on any of that then good luck to him.

But the idea that any problem is solved through a relationship between the US and Britain is a big mistake.

That would be true even if Trump wasn't president and Corbyn was prime minister.

Maintaining that relationship means trying to find common ground with people whose interests are fundamentally opposed to those of millions of people around the world.

At every level the US state

is run by people who—for instance—protect the fossil fuel industry because it's integral to their economy and their system.

Or those who organise trade wars, real wars, coups and sanctions because they don't want to give up on the US as a global power.

If you want a relationship with them, you've got to be on board.

And by and large, Labour's leaders have been. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown—

complicit in the US's invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan—are probably the most obvious examples.

But don't forget Neil Kinnock who, as opposition leader, backed unequivocally the Tory government's support for the US's first invasion of Iraq in 1991.

Or Harold Wilson, who was stopped from joining the US's war in Vietnam by growing opposition on the streets.

Joined Then there's Clement Attlee, who in 1950 joined the US in invading Korea.

Corbyn might be different. For most of his political life he's been part of a movement that opposed the US and all its wars. The legacy of that is still a large source of his appeal and support.

But every Labour leader before him thought that a relationship with the US was good because it benefited the state that they hoped to govern.

So Corbyn might boycott a state visit for Trump.

But if being prime minister means showing you want to maintain the state's relationship with the US, it could mean far worse things than dining with Trump.

Why is maintaining Britain's relationship with the US so important?

Fight to stop closure of Ford's at Bridgend

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

FORD BOSSES have announced plans to shut down their plant in Bridgend by September 2020.

The move will mean axing 1,700 jobs at the engine factory in South Wales—threatening thousands more jobs that rely on the industry.

And there are fears for jobs at Ford's four other British sites—Dagenham, Daventry, Dunton and Halewood.

It is the latest in a long-running jobs slaughter in manufacturing.

Unite union general secretary Len McCluskey slammed the decision. He said, "We will resist this closure with all our might and we call upon the Welsh Assembly and Westminster governments to join us to save this plant."

Ballot

In April the Unite and GMB unions said that all five sites were "ballot ready".

A letter told workers, "If any location is faced with compulsory redundancies, or plant closure, then each

location would be balloted for industrial action."

The union leaders must back up those words by announcing a national ballot for strikes across Ford.

Workers' resistance—including strikes and tactics

such as an occupation—can make the bosses back down. A big campaign could force nationalisation to save jobs.

An immediate walkout at Bridgend would send a strong message to the Tories and Ford bosses that unions

will fight.

Some have wrongly blamed Brexit for the closure. But the biggest cuts to Ford's European operations are set to be in Germany.

The Bridgend plant closure is part of the bigger

pattern of job losses in the car industry in Britain and worldwide.

There are many contributing factors, but the root cause is overcapacity of cars.

This is caused by the anarchy of the free market.

What's produced under capitalism isn't based on planning to meet need, but on rival firms competing for profits.

McCluskey said that Ford bosses had "broken promise after promise".

"The company has deliberately run down its UK operations so that now not a single Ford vehicle—car or van—is made in the UK."

Vehicle

The different stages of the production process are based across different countries.

And "just-in time" distribution methods means workers at one plant have the power to hit Ford's worldwide operations.

Unions have largely relied on "social partnership" with car bosses in the hope of saving jobs.

This has meant the axing of tens of thousands of jobs.

Organising resistance can save the plant.

And with threats of job losses at British Steel in Scunthorpe and the closure of the Honda car plant in Swindon, it can be part of a wider fightback.

BOSSES PLAN to shut the Ford plant in Bridgend, South Wales, threatening thousands of jobs

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'We should strike to save the planet,' say trade unionists

After the inspiring school student strikes over climate catastrophe, activists in workplaces are fighting to get action off the ground this September. Sadie Robinson spoke to some of them

YOUNG CAMPAIGNERS have appealed to workers to strike over climate change in September.

The call follows successful school student strikes and road blockades by Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists.

Lots of workers are worried about climate change—and many union activists are now thinking seriously about what kind of action is possible.

Pippa Dowsell is an NEU union rep at Islington Sixth Form College in north London, and president of Islington NEU. "I'm absolutely for a strike over climate change," she told Socialist Worker.

"It's such an important issue—the whole world is at stake.

"I think the vast majority of union members at our college will support the idea of striking."

Stuart Graham is a social worker convenor for Glasgow City Unison union. He said, "Many young people don't know what a union is or what it does.

"This is how we can make trade unions relevant."

Inspired

On the London Underground, RMT union members are discussing what action to take after hearing student strikers speak at their meetings.

RMT rep Phil Rowan told Socialist Worker, "Workers I've spoken to on the underground have been inspired by the school strikes.

"And they saw solidarity photos from teachers who were under pressure not to support it.

"People are saying if we can take action, then we should."

Many national unions have backed the school strikes. The UCU union agreed to "support and promote calls

for a general strike for action on climate change". Sandy Nicoll, Unison branch secretary at Soas University of London, said this has "made all the difference".

He told Socialist Worker, "There's now a chance we could have something significant at Soas.

"The key thing is giving people confidence to take unofficial action.

"That's a big ask, but we had unofficial walkouts in February and April this year. If you do it in sufficient numbers, there's not a lot that management can do."

Stuart said he expects there will be "some sort of solidarity action". "There's a reluctance among some, maybe because of fear," he said.

"But last year refuse workers in Glasgow struck unofficially to support equal pay strikes and there were no consequences."

XR member and student Patrick Thelwell said workers' strikes would escalate the struggle.

"Strikes are incredibly powerful and have won major concessions from powerful business interests and elites," he said.

"Climate breakdown poses a catastrophic threat, particularly for working class people and those in the Global South.

"We can't succeed without a much broader groundswell of support from workers across the world.

"This would hit the capitalists where it hurts most—their wallets."

Sandy added, "We shouldn't have an ultimatum of all or nothing. Everyone can do something.

"We shouldn't run away from the idea of general strikes, but delivering that is a serious business.

"The people calling for it are right to say that's what is needed."



THE THREAT of climate change poses a stark choice

Fridays for Future walkouts have spurred on workers

STUDENT strikers have spoken at NEU, UCU, RMT, FBU, PCS, Unison and other union branch meetings and conferences.

Stuart said Glasgow Unison is "trying to introduce climate strikers into as many branches as possible".

He explained how unions can give practical support to students.

"We agreed to offer them meeting space, printing facilities for leaflets and flyers, and to make a budget available for them," he said. Ken

Muller from Islington NEU told Socialist Worker, "Half a dozen local school students attended one of our association meetings.

"We passed a motion welcoming the strikes and listed things that we could do, including taking action."

And when national unions have taken a stand, activists feel more confident.

Kieran Picken, NEU Derby City district secretary, said, "We invited two student strikers to our AGM recently.

"It came off the back



An RMT union banner on the school climate strike last month

of the NEU national conference, which passed a motion supporting the student strikes.

"The mood among teachers is supportive of the students. But there isn't always confidence to take action themselves."

Pippa said, "Some people might worry about being punished for taking time out of work.

"But if enough people do it, that will be a protection for people if employers try to discipline people.

"They can't sack everybody."

'How can I organise at work?'

THERE IS a global week of action on climate change from 20 to 27 September. Students plan to hold another walkout on 20 September. Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg—who started the climate strikes movement—has called on workers to join it. And there are calls for a Global Earth Strike on 27 September.

MAKE the argument for strikes from the beginning. If you have numbers, it will deter management from disciplining anyone. The key thing is, how can we build confidence for people to take action?

YOU COULD go around work with a petition in support of action on the climate. Or if there's a canteen in work, why not set up a stall during breaks This gets people talking about the issue.

THERE MIGHT be more than one union in your workplace. Schools, for example, may have the NEU, Unison and GMB and other unions. Can you organise a cross-union meeting? Invite a school striker or Extinction Rebellion activist to speak.

YOU MIGHT convince your workplace to take unofficial action. Arguing for one and organising will win some of your workmates to the need for a general strike to save the planet.

There will be more people making the argument for unofficial walkouts alongside you.

IN BRIEF

Over 30 days of strikes at Sellafield

CATERING, cleaning, security and environmental workers at Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria began a 12-day strike last week.

The Unite union members are employed by outsourcer Mitie and are fighting for a pay rise from their current rate of just £8.45 an hour.

Workers have held 26 days of strikes since April.

Tower Hamlets vote for council strike

COUNCIL WORKERS in Tower Hamlets, east London, have voted by a huge margin for strikes in a consultative ballot.

Some 5,000 Unison and GMB union members overwhelmingly backed action over a raft of attacks on their pay and conditions.

Unions are moving towards a full strike ballot and walkouts could hit the Labour-run council in the coming months.

Trocadero cleaners fight poverty pay

CLEANERS WHO work at the Trocadero entertainment venue and the Criterion building in Piccadilly Circus are set to strike.

They are fighting for the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour.

Outsourced to Doc cleaning, they are currently paid just £8.31 an hour.

They are members of the United Voices of the World union.

Barristers argue for strike on 1 July

CRIMINAL BARRISTERS in England and Wales have voted overwhelmingly for a national walkout on 1 July in protest at low fees.

Barristers in the Criminal Bar Association voted around 94 percent for strikes.

Some barristers are paid as little as £46.50 for a day in court, the association says.

Take us in-house at St George's uni

UNITED VOICES of the World union members working as security guards at St George's university have voted in an indicative ballot to strike.

St George's is a medical school in Tooting, south London, and part of the University of London.

Workers want bosses to terminate its contract with contractor Noonan and bring them in-house.

Revolt at Kentish Town city farm

WORKERS AT Kentish Town city farm in north London are fighting against compulsory redundancies.

A petition against the cuts has almost 5,000 signatures. ●Sign the petition here bit.ly/SaveCityFarm

CIVIL SERVICE



STRIKING AT the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Monday

PICTURE: @PCSL_SE ON TWITTER

Striking back inside Jeremy Hunt's office

by NICK CLARK

OUTSOURCED workers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in central London began a five-day strike on Monday of this week.

Workers held placards saying, "Shame on the foreign secretary".

The members of the PCS union—including cleaners and maintenance workers—are fighting bosses from Interserve.

The multinational has

imposed redundancies and changes to pay dates that mean some workers haven't been paid since 28 April. The strikers are also demanding that Interserve recognises the union, and pays workers the London Living Wage.

Strikers planned to walk from the picket line to the Houses of Commons to lobby their MPs on Tuesday.

And on Wednesday they were set to hold a trade union solidarity day

The strike comes ahead of

a walkout by PCS members at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The workers there, including cleaners, porters and caterers, are also demanding the London Living Wage from outsourcer Aramark and ISS.

They were set to strike on Monday of next week.

●Messages of support for the Interserve workers to helenf@pcs.org.uk

●Messages of support to the ISS and Aramark strikers to leeds@pcs.org.uk

CARE WORKERS

Retreat over sleep-in pay

THE UNISON union has announced a new six-point plan as part of its fight for decent pay in the care workers' sector.

It comes off the back of strikes by care support workers at Alternative Futures Group (AFG) after bosses cut payments for overnight shifts.

The cuts were so drastic that many support workers have lost thousands of pounds a year.

The "plan for equal and full pay" calls for "every

possible legal avenue to challenge pay discrimination and inequality at AFG".

But it doesn't call for a reinstatement of sleep-in payments.

It also doesn't include any indication that further strikes are a possibility.

In its "News from negotiations" the union said AFG was "running a huge loss in supported living".

But even if AFG is in debt, it shouldn't be left to ordinary people to pick up the bill.

HEALTH WORKERS

Harlow wins

AROUND 200 cleaners, domestics and other support staff at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, Essex, are celebrating after bosses backed off from plans to outsource their jobs.

The Unison union members had planned to walk out on Thursday of last week—and a further five times this month.

Bosses conceded to their demands before their first action.

It's another example of the power of strikes.

NO TO DEPORTATIONS



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

PROTESTERS GATHERED at the Home Office in London last week against the deportation of Ken Macharia.

He is due to be deported to Kenya, despite the high risk of homophobic persecution that he would face there.

The British authorities acknowledge same sex sexual activities are criminalised in Kenya with a sentence of up to 21 years in jail.

He has been given longer to stay in Britain but still expects he will be forced to leave.

TRANSPORT

Planes, trains and ferries

WORKERS AT Glasgow and Aberdeen airports staged the second 12-hour walkout over pensions on Monday.

It follows a 12-hour strike by members of the Unite union on Friday of last week.

Strikers in Glasgow plan four more walkouts this month. Airport security officers, airport fire safety, airfield operation officers and engineering technicians are fighting changes to their pensions.

■SOME 10,000 Tube workers could be headed for strikes after their RMT union announced a formal ballot for action.

London Underground workers are fighting for improvements to their pay and conditions, but bosses are refusing to grant them.

■SECURITY guards at Luton Airport have begun a 49-day strike.

Workers began the action on Wednesday of last week and are set to continue until 23 July unless negotiations this week are fruitful. New

shift patterns are set to affect around 120 security guards. They would be liable to work an extra 15 days a year and only getting nine full weekends free annually.

The Unite union members also face less rest time between shifts and voted by 95 percent for strikes.

■WOOLWICH Ferry workers were set to walk out on Friday this week and Monday next week in a dispute over pay, health and safety and staffing levels.

The Unite union members have already struck for eight days.

■DRIVERS AND passenger escorts for school students in Hackney, east London, are preparing for a fresh series of strikes.

Workers are set to walk out for six days in June and July after voting unanimously for new strikes.

The 38 members of the Unite union want £50 a week extra for working split shifts backdated to July last year, when they raised the issue.

GMB UNION

Union debates Brexit chaos

ANGER AT austerity—and frustration that the Tories are still in office—ran through the GMB union conference in Brighton this week.

The first day was dominated by debates over Brexit.

Delegates passed a statement by the GMB central executive committee.

John Phillips, GMB Wales and South West regional secretary, warned that whoever took over from Theresa May would play "fast and loose with the lives of ordinary people".

And he said the GMB rejects scapegoating migrants and

stands for the "unity of the working class".

But the statement left open the possibility of supporting a divisive second referendum.

Dave Levy from London region said that Brexit is "stopping the union movement from addressing the issues that matter and talking about our radical manifesto".

But he added that, "the commitment to a second referendum is essential" to stop Labour losing votes.

Unions mounting a serious fight against the Tories and bosses' attacks could unite Leave and Remain supporters.

OBITUARY

Robin Beste 1944-2019

ROBIN'S SUDDEN death on 29 May was a shock to us all.

As a mature student Robin studied English Literature at Sussex University, and met partner Manuela on their teaching training year 1974-5.

Brighton International Socialist Gill Poole recruited Robin and Manuela before they both found work in London from 1978.

Robin became a Special Educational Needs teacher.

He was active in his union branch and a contributor to the Rank and File Teacher magazine.

In retirement Robin organised a vibrant local Stop the War Coalition branch



Robin Beste

and went on to manage its national online work. By turns an erudite, witty, pernickety, motivational man, Robin definitely contributed to the sum of human kindness.

Solidarity and condolences to Manuela, his daughters Dany and Alice, son Sam and his partner Saoirse and their son Shea.

Nick Grant

EDUCATION

East London college strike for higher pay

by SADIE ROBINSON

UCU UNION members at New City College struck on Thursday of last week.

The action, part of a long-running union campaign over pay and conditions in a number of colleges, coincided with GCSE exams.

There was a buoyant mood on the picket line in Poplar, Tower Hamlets.

Strikers were furious at attacks from management that mean students get a worse education.

Steve told Socialist Worker, "We have a new observation policy that is unfair."

"I teach entry level students and I have people observing me who don't teach that and don't understand it."

"We're here to do our best for the students."

"But management seems more focused on making sure they don't wear coats in lessons."

Workers want a 5 percent rise or £1,500 a year, whichever is greater.

And they also want changes on workload, contracts, lesson observations and better union rights.

A number of colleges have



A CONFIDENT picket line in Poplar, Tower Hamlets

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

won significant pay rises and improvements to contracts after striking.

Angrier

One learning mentor told Socialist Worker, "I get a feeling that this is getting more entrenched and people are getting angrier."

"They are making the

contracts worse so that anyone new gets an inferior contract. If we don't stand up to this now there will be more attacks."

UCU rep Richard told Socialist Worker, "UCU congress gave a green light for more branches to get involved. Our boss started out by saying we couldn't

have a pay rise because of affordability. Now he says he wants to teach us a lesson—that strikes don't work."

"But when we suspended our strikes, he hardened his position. If this has taught us anything it's that we have to strike."

Some names have been changed

NOTTINGHAM

Walkout over £1,000 wage cut at Nottingham college

A WALKOUT is set to hit Nottingham College on 1 July after UCU union members voted by 96 percent for strikes over new contracts.

Workers at the college report a high turnout in the ballot, showing the strength of feeling among staff.

Bosses want to impose contracts that would leave many workers over £1,000 a year worse off.

And that comes on top of nine years without pay rises that even matched inflation.

Workers also face cuts to sick pay and holidays. Class sizes would increase and there would be no limit to classroom teaching hours.

The changes were set to be imposed on Monday of next week.

UCU members held big lunchtime protests against



A lunchtime protest

the plans at five college sites across Nottingham on Thursday of last week.

More workers have joined the union during the ballot.

UCU members are set to hold a mass rally at the Clarendon College precinct on the day of the first strike.

Richard Buckwell

HIGHER EDUCATION

University workers could take to picket lines again

THE UCU union could ballot workers across 69 universities for strikes later this year if attacks on the USS pension scheme continue.

The union has written to the universities warning of industrial action if they don't rule out contribution rises and benefit cuts for workers.

It follows a decision at the UCU's higher education sector conference in May immediately to kickstart a campaign to defend the scheme.

UCU members at over 60 universities struck for 14 days last year to defend it.

But the union leadership, then led by general secretary Sally Hunt, agreed a poor deal to end the action.

This saw the setting up of a Joint Expert Panel (JEP), including union members and

bosses' representatives, to discuss the scheme. It has said that workers should pay no more than 8 percent into their pensions.

Yet USS trustees imposed a rise of 0.8 percent in April, taking the total to 8.8 percent.

Contributions are set to rise in October to 10.4 percent, and to 11.7 percent in April next year.

UCU members say these attacks will drive people out of the scheme or stop them from joining—putting the entire scheme in jeopardy.

The union's letter says that if bosses fail to confirm that they will limit contributions to 8 percent—or meet any extra costs—it will prepare for a ballot in September. It gives university bosses a deadline of next Wednesday to respond.

FIGHTING THE CUTS

Bath sees big march for years against school cuts

OVER 1,000 people protested against cuts to school funding in Bath, Somerset, last Saturday.

Head teachers, parents, school workers and children joined the march, organised by Fair Funding for All Schools.

School spending per child fell by 8.8 percent in Bath between 2013/14 and 2018/19. The fall for those in North East Somerset was 6.7 percent. But student numbers and costs have gone up.

Protesters said the cuts

mean bigger class sizes, cuts to support staff, less support for children with special educational needs and inadequate funding for equipment.

Some schools have even closed early due to lack of resources.

Many local head teachers spoke out against the impact of the cuts.

George Samios said, "We are having to do more and more with less and less."

"Schools are under more pressure now than they have been for a long time."

SCHOOLS

Teachers build support for boycott of hated test

NEU UNION members across England are campaigning to win a big vote in favour of boycotting the hated Sats tests in primary schools.

The indicative ballot follows a vote at the NEU's annual conference.

Children are forced to sit Sats twice while in primary schools.

The tests are nothing to do with helping children but are instead used to rank schools and teachers.

They cause extreme stress.

Sara Tomlinson is district secretary of Lambeth NEU in south London and a campaigner against testing. She told Socialist Worker, "In my branch the turnout is pretty positive."

"The turnout is higher at this point in the ballot than it was during our previous

ballot. We don't have an indication of how big the yes vote is. But all reports are that people are feeling very positive about the campaign."

Hackney NEU organised a "Scrap the Sats" picnic last weekend, while Tyneside saw a "Play not Tests" event on the beach. Sara said, "There are questions about what the alternative to Sats looks like. We want to talk to teachers about that."

"Real assessment should be based on teacher judgement and what's best for the child, not government league tables."

If NEU members back a boycott, a full ballot could follow and a boycott of Sats could take place later this year.

The indicative ballot ends on 2 July.

ROUND UP

Sixth form staff prepare for a fight over funding

THE NEU union is balloting members in sixth form colleges for strikes.

It is demanding extra funding for sixth form colleges to counter the impact of cuts on pay and conditions.

The ballot is for discontinuous strikes during the autumn term this year and spring term next year.

NEU UNION members at The Grove Academy in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, were set to strike on Thursday of this week. The action is against planned redundancies following funding cuts.

The school is a Pupil Referral Unit, which teaches children who have been excluded from mainstream schools.

It's set to lose two thirds of its budget by 2020.

Send messages of support to Lesley.davis@neu.org.uk

A PLANNED strike at Newham Sixth Form College in east London was suspended after workers won concessions. NEU union members had planned to walk out for three days from Tuesday.

They were in dispute over the imposition of term-time only contracts on the tutoring team.

TEACHERS, PARENTS and anti-academy campaigners were set to lobby Greenwich council in south east London on Wednesday of this week.

The lobby is demanding that the council stops John Roan school from becoming an academy run by United Learning.

The conversion was set to take place on the same day.

No to United Learning conversion Wednesday 12 June, 6pm–8pm, Woolwich Town Hall, London SE18 6PW

A CAMP FOR THE CLIMATE

by SARAH BATES

EXTINCTION Rebellion (XR) activists in Scotland are getting ready to set up camp to demand politicians urgently act on climate chaos.

A “Holyrood Rebel Camp” is planned outside the Scottish parliament from this Sunday with campaigners set to stay out in tents until next Thursday.

They’ve timed the protest to coincide with the hearing of amendments to the Scottish government’s Climate Change Bill.

These include a target to make Scotland reach net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045.

But John Hardy, a Rebel Camp spokesperson, told Socialist Worker that was far too late. “We’re demanding zero carbon by 2025 but they’re on a ‘business as usual’ model,” he said.

“They expect to be able to continue North Sea oil extraction, expand motorways and airports and intensive agriculture.”

XR activists plan activities



ACTIVISTS LOCKED themselves to the Scottish parliament

PICTURE: EXTINCTION REBELLION

throughout the week, including people’s assemblies at the camp, which the leaders of the Scottish political parties have been invited to.

Activists also chained themselves to the gates of the Scottish parliament last week.

They sent the keys to party leaders and demanded talks.

The last day of the camp is set to launch a new campaign

for a Scottish citizens’ assembly which can direct action on climate change.

John said he hoped the action will “remind the politicians that their bill isn’t good enough and we demand better”.

“The increase in environmental awareness has been incredible in the last six months,” he said. “People

are more worried about it and people are watching the Scottish government.”

Activists in the north of England are planning a six-day “Northern Rebellion” in Manchester from 30 August.

“It’s finally the North’s turn to rise up for the climate and ecological emergency,” said XR groups from across north east and north west England.

“Let’s get down to the business of radically changing the way we live and think with six days of non-violent civil disobedience.”

For more details on the Holyrood Rebel Camp go to bit.ly/XRHolyrood

For more details on the Northern Rebellion go to bit.ly/XRNorthern

Extreme weather hits India

THE repercussions of a hotter world were underlined in India last week. A heat wave saw temperatures in some areas rise to eight degrees higher than the average.

People have stopped going outside in the day and authorities are hosing down the streets with water.

In Churu temperatures reached over 50.3 degrees, with similar levels recorded for three weeks. It was 45.6 degrees in Delhi on Tuesday this week—six degrees higher than normal for June.

There’s no doubt that India is getting hotter for longer. Some 11 of the 15 warmest years in India have all occurred since 2004.

Cyclone Vayu was expected to hit the Gujarat coast this week.

Workplaces and schools have been forced to close when Vayu is likely to hit due to high winds and heavy rainfall.

Extreme weather in India is just one example that demonstrates that climate change is not a future prospect.

It’s a daily reality for a country of over one billion people.

Sudanese workers deepen revolt with a general strike against the regime

WORKERS IN Sudan have shown their power to bring society to a halt in the battle against the ruthless military regime.

A general strike has brought many towns and cities to a standstill.

Most of the ministries and government agencies in the capital, Khartoum, were completely closed on Sunday, the first day of the working week.

All the banks, many shops and petrol stations, and the main market were closed as well.

Traffic was completely disrupted.

Most air traffic at Khartoum International Airport stopped. All

banks, telecommunication companies, the southern port, and the market were closed in Port Sudan, capital of Red Sea state.

More than 90 percent of workers joined the strike.

In the capitals of the five Darfur states in the west of the country, El Fasher, El Geneina, Zalingei, Nyala, and Ed Daein, the strike involved bank workers, teachers, public sector workers, engineers and doctors.

El Obeid, capital of North Kordofan state, was almost silent.

People gathered tyres, tree trunks and rocks to build roadblocks in Khartoum’s district of



A solidarity protest in London last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Bahari. “We blocked the streets to send a message to those trying to steal our revolution that they will fail,” said protester Emad Ibrahim.

The strike is set to continue until the military have fallen.

The Rapid Support Forces state militia murdered at least 110 people when they cleared a Khartoum sit-in last week.

And the military responded to the strike on Sunday with arrests, deportations of activists and by killing at least six people.

Regional powers aligned to the West—in particular Egypt and Saudi Arabia—

are trying to keep the generals in power.

But if the strike continues the military can be toppled.

The strike committees that are beginning to emerge need to become an alternative power to the regime.

Struggle, not talks with the military butchers, is the way forward.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE —Hands off Sudan. Protest Sat 15 June, assemble 1pm, UAE embassy, 1-2 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE. March to Egyptian and Saudi embassies

On other pages...

Sudan—a revolt on the brink
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